

Below is an overview of the Texas Department of State Health Services' (formerly the Texas Department of Health) involvement surrounding the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund site in Channelview, Harris County, Texas.

*\*Entries italicized are activities of other agencies that were included to show a timeline of the site\**

**Timeline of the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) involvement at the SJRWP site:**

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| September 1990      | DSHS (formerly Texas Department of Health) collected fish and blue crab samples from the San Jacinto River (SJR), the Houston Ship Channel (HSC), and the Upper Galveston Bay (UGB). As a result of excessive dioxin concentrations found in these samples, DSHS issued a fish consumption advisory (Adv. 3) for catfish and blue crabs. Since 1990 DSHS has conducted 5 additional risk characterizations which recommended the continuance of the previous advisory.  |
| <i>July 1995</i>    | <i>Texas A&amp;M University released the "Houston Ship Channel Toxicity Study" which reported unexplained, high concentrations of dioxins in sediment samples collected in the vicinity of the waste pits.</i>  |
| <i>April 2005</i>   | <i>The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) began sampling from the waste pits.</i>   |
| <i>March 2007</i>   | <i>TCEQ's inspection report, including sampling data analysis was completed.</i>  |
| June 2007           | DSHS conducted an educational campaign along the San Jacinto River and Houston Ship Channel, and through neighborhoods adjacent to the site. The goal of the campaign was to distribute information regarding the site hazards and the fish consumption advisory. The team distributed approximately 900 pieces of educational material while visiting with people who were swimming and fishing along the river.   |
| <i>March 2008</i>   | <i>The SJRWP site was officially added to the National Priorities List</i>  |
| October 2009        | DSHS conducted a second educational campaign along the San Jacinto River and Houston Ship Channel. The team distributed approximately 1,500 pieces of educational material while visiting with people who were fishing along the river and through partnerships with local businesses, local government, and Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD).<br><br>DSHS received recognition from U.S. Representative Gene Green, 29 <sup>th</sup> District, for the efforts made in educating the community about the exposure risks associated with the Superfund site. |
| <i>January 2010</i> | <i>EPA began posting warning signs and restricted site access.</i>  |
| June 2010           | DSHS released the <i>TPWD Workers with Potential Occupational Exposures to PCDDs/PCDFs in Sediments from the San Jacinto River, Houston Ship Channel, and Upper Galveston Bay, Health Consultation report.</i>  |
| June 2010           | Staff attended an EPA sponsored public meeting to present DSHS involvement with the Superfund site. DSHS staff conducted a third educational campaign along the San Jacinto   |

River, Houston Ship Channel, and the Upper Galveston Bay. Additionally, a door-to-door was conducted in two of the neighborhoods adjacent too and near the site. DSHS distributed approximately 3,000 pieces of educational material visiting with people fishing or swimming along the river, and through the continued partnerships with TPWD and local businesses.

*February 2011 EPA implemented a time critical removal action at the site.*

April 2011 DSHS released a public comment draft of the *San Jacinto River Waste Pits Public Health Assessment*.

May 2011 Staff attended an EPA sponsored public meeting to address community health concerns related to the Superfund site and the fish consumption advisory. DSHS staff conducted a fourth educational campaign along the San Jacinto River, Houston Ship Channel, and the Upper Galveston Bay. Approximately 1,800 pieces of educational material was distributed.

June 2012 Staff attended a local community sponsored meeting to address community health concerns related to the Superfund site and the fish consumption advisory. DSHS staff conducted a fifth educational campaign along the San Jacinto River, Houston Ship Channel, and the Upper Galveston Bay. Approximately 800 pieces of educational material were distributed.

August 2012 With DSHS oversight, Baylor University released *Biota-Sediment Accumulation Factors (BSAFs)* report, which was funded by the Texas Environmental Health Institute (TEHI). The project collected benthic samples in the vicinity of the site to more completely characterize dioxin concentrations in fish, crabs, and shellfish.

October 2012 DSHS released the *San Jacinto River Waste Pits Public Health Assessment*.

November 2012 Staff attended an EPA sponsored public meeting to address community health concerns. DSHS staff conducted a sixth educational campaign along the San Jacinto River, Houston Ship Channel, and the Upper Galveston Bay. Approximately 500 pieces of educational material was distributed.

February 2013 DSHS staff accompanied EPA staff to Highlands to gather health concerns from residents. EPA conducted water sampling of private residential wells. DSHS were present to talk with the home owner/tenants to address their health concerns or questions regarding exposure risk from the site.

June 2013 DSHS extended the fish consumption advisory (ADV. 49) north of the site up to the Lake Houston Dam.

September 2013 DSHS staff conducted the seventh educational campaign along the San Jacinto River, Houston Ship Channel, and the Upper Galveston Bay. Approximately 650 pieces of educational material was distributed.

January 2014 Staff attended an EPA sponsored public meeting to address community health concerns. DSHS staff conducted the eighth educational campaign along the San Jacinto River, Houston Ship Channel, and the Upper Galveston Bay. Approximately 1,000 pieces of educational material was distributed.

March 2014 DSHS Birth Defects Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch released the *Occurrence of Birth Defects in the San Jacinto River Waste Pit Area Compared to the State of Texas, 1999-2009*

report. The report concluded that there was only one category of birth defects, unspecified anomalies of the heart, that occurred significantly more frequently among births in the SJR area than in Texas as a whole.

July 2014	DSHS was recognized by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) for the community health education and outreach conducted at this site.
August 2014	DSHS staff began attending the Community Advisory Group (CAG) meetings that are held quarterly.
October 2014	DSHS staff participated in the Baytown Nurture Nature Festival. DSHS talked with approximately 500 people and distributed approximately 1,300 pieces of educational materials regarding the Superfund site and the fish consumption advisory.
April 2015	Staff attended an EPA sponsored public meeting to address community health concerns.
June 2015	DSHS released the <i>Cancer Cluster Investigation In the vicinity of San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site, Harris County, Texas</i> .
July 2015	DSHS attended the CAG meeting to address questions/concerns regarding the Cancer Cluster Investigation.
February 2016	Staff attended an EPA sponsored public meeting to address community health concerns.
April 2016	As a result of the breach in the protective cap lining community concerns have increased. DSHS will be going door-to-door in the neighborhoods directly east of the site and southeast of the site to conduct the ninth educational campaign. DSHS will be coordinating with Harris County Pollution Control to distribute information regarding well testing that the County is offering to residents in these two neighborhoods.